



LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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Tuesday, April 3, 2012
2:00 pm
Conference Room 325
House Committee on Judiciary

Testimony on HCR 84
URGING THE ADOPTION OF LAWS TO REQUIRE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE
LANDOWNER IN ORDER TO HUNT ON PRIVATE LANDS AND TO DEFINE PLACES OF
FORMAL HUNTING

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

I am Janet Ashman, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

We **strongly support** this resolution and appreciate its introduction, since the bill that would have addressed the problem did not pass this session. The purpose of that bill was to require people who want to hunt on our ranches and farms, to get written permission from the farmers and ranchers that manage that land. In addition, it would have made enforcement of criminal activities easier by clarifying current statutes.

This is necessary because criminals have learned there is no practical enforcement of hunting laws and this allows thieves and vandals armed with guns to trespass, steal valuable crops and equipment, harm livestock, and threaten farmers and ranchers.

Over the past several years, incidents of livestock slaughtering, theft, vandalism, crop destruction, and poaching have become commonplace on farms and ranches on all of the islands. The current laws are confusing and not easily enforced. Additionally, the burden is on the rancher or farmer to prove that he did not give permission to a gun-wielding trespasser to use his property.

We look forward to working with law enforcement, DLNR, and the hunting community to address this issue before next session. We sincerely believe that this can be done without penalizing legitimate hunters or hindering the ability of agencies and their partners to carry out their statutory mandates to protect natural resources.

Thank you very much for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.